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SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: May I take it, Sir, that the proprietors of the factories are prepared to co-operate and see that the Act is brought into force and worked?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Yes, Sir. I am very happy to say that the proprietors have offered their co-operation to bring the Act into force progressively and step by step.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: May I know whether the Government are corresponding with the neighbouring States of Kerala, Andhra and Karnataka to see that a corresponding legislation is passed there also so that there may be unanimity in this matter?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, already we have held two conferences of the State Ministers of Labour of Andhra, Kerala, Mysore and Madras. The matter is still under correspondence.

Medical leave for teachers

* 83 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the period of medical leave for which a teacher in an aided secondary school is eligible in respect of his whole service;

(*b*) whether the salary and dearness allowance paid to the teachers for the medical leave are taken into account for the purposes of grant; and

(*c*) whether the enforcement of these rules is verified by the department periodically?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) This will be regulated in accordance with the terms of the agreement entered into by teachers with the managements.

(*b*) The actual leave allowance paid or half the substantive pay of the teacher at the time of his proceeding on leave, whichever is less, will be taken into account for assessment of grant. The full dearness allowance admissible to Government servants will also be admitted. If it is not actually paid, the entire claim therefor will be disallowed.

(*c*) Yes.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: May I take it that the rule that a teacher is eligible for one full year of medical leave for the whole of his service is not in force now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not have the information, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: In view of the fact that the teachers are undergoing great hardship for want of uniform leave rules and in view of the fact that the leave account is also taken into consideration for the grant of pensions, will the Government see that uniform leave rules are enforced on the managements?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I thought that even the teachers would welcome some variety instead of getting into a rigid pattern.

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SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: The teacher is entitled to avail himself of 12 months' leave on medical certificate on half pay. It is not obligatory. May I request the Government to see that these teachers when they go on sick leave are permitted to commute the 12 months' half-pay leave into leave for six months on full pay?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is a suggestion for action which might be considered at the appropriate time.

Municipal Elementary Schools

3-10 p.m. * 84 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Municipal Elementary Schools housed in rented buildings in Villupuram Municipal limits; and

(*b*) whether there is any scheme to construct new buildings to house them?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) Seven, Sir.

(*b*) No, Sir.

SRI S. NATARAJAN: May I know, Sir, the expenditure incurred on paying rent?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: About Rs. 250 or Rs. 270.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN: What is the policy of the Government so far as the construction of buildings for elementary schools is concerned?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is a municipal elementary school. Municipalities will have priorities fixed for these. I do not think we can issue any directions in this matter.

School Improvement Projects

* 85 *Q.*—SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of school improvement projects in respect of elementary schools in the State; and

(*b*) the contributions made by the public in this regard?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: (*a*) 114 School Improvement Conferences have been held in the various districts up to 4th May 1960.

(*b*) About Rs. 3·79 crores.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Is this contribution in cash or in kind?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Both, Sir.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Are inventories maintained with regard to the articles received from the public? Are accounts maintained with regard to cash?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Yes, Sir.